5/17/72

Dear Larry,

If you speak to or can speak to your man who went to Bremer's apt., please ask him if he saw any books there. If he is a Milwaukee correspondent, I'd be interested in the books he charged out at the library. Clearly, whether or not legally nuts, this guy is a psycho. I think it is not impossible that he could have been turned on by some of the sycophantic writing, of which the most recent is Frank's.(I presume he was in Milwaukee but don't know. If he was, he made radio and TV.) Nuts could find this heady stuff. The Post cleansed him a bit today, omitting the confederate flag in his found property. It has yet to become aware of the strange FBI lack of interest in his possessions when he was caught in the act. And its even stranger lack of protection of the apartment and its contents. Aside from the potential evidentiary value, suppose some nut had planted evidence when they left it entirely unguarded? Man, could a conspiracy have been built. Likewise, with a big bit on AP not being willing to divulge its official source on Bremer's alleged left-wing connections, it makes no mention of NBC's attribution. But it is dutiful, reminding us all that everything is just rumors. Except that when he was stalking Wallace and was seen so many time doing it by so many people, as now is clear, it was normal, especially after one police department took pictures of him, for him to have been entirely ignored.

You may be interested in a different reading on the Maryland returns. My own estimate was accurate. The turnout was very small, 37%. Wallace seems to have gotten 40% of the vote, which led AP to say he had a two-to-one victory, an error dutifully repeated in the head in our local paper. Now, when the "conservative" vote was diluted by Goldwater in 1964, Wallace got 43%. To put this another way, after all this time and exposure, his percentage was not increased and this when there was not the competition for his vote that Goldwater represented. He actually did worse in this pro-Wallace state in any afir analysis of the returns. What does seem clear is that McGovern's people made a big mistake not to have him spend some time here. He could have done much better. I think he alone could have gotten an appreciable part of the 63% of the registered voters who did not turn out. And, if you consider that this horrible thing could have increased the Wallace vote, he did even more poorly than before.

In one of the 7 Congressional districts, Parran Mitchell's (black), McG had no slate. Mitchell had endorsed Shirley Chisholm. And on the ultra Eastern Shore, it is racist. So, McG's showing is rather good, under the circumstances and can represent more popularity in a conservative state than shows.

Today's Post, quoting hospital sources, says it is definite that Wallace's spinal cord was severed. The hospital is still issuing ambiguous and now evasive statements. X-rays should be definitive. There is hospital complaint that Wallace people have con-converted it into a new political hq. The Post says it is unlikely he can even be in a wheelchair by convention time. If this is true, and if McG is the Demo. candidate, you might find a different result in the election in Md. than the headlines today show. The results of the primary are hardly reflected in them.

We really have two primaries. In the unreported one, and despite the handicaps noted above, McG. got 17 electors. The law does not bind them to Wallce in the other primary and I doubt they are in their own belief or emotions. The Chisholm delegates would undoubtedly go for him, too. All of this is lost in the reporting I have seen. Big a brain as Lisagor is, I fear it would be unwelcome were I to suggest this to Bob. I would also suggest that part of Wallace's support this time is not from racism, which he has pretended to sublimate, but from the pretense of populism. The growing similarity of reaction and attitude of the right with the progressive is also unreported, but the real reason Wallace picked up the bread-and-butter issues and the real reason it has gotten him non-racist, blue-collar support is here.

Yours is an exceptionally good morgue. With all its rep, for example, the Post-Dispatch has only what it published on the King case. So, if you have a separate file on John Ray (and what you sent could have come from the James or Foreman files), would you please check under John? That case of his, so badly messed up by Stoner, does present the most serious hazard to all, especially political dissidents. I think there is a good story in it, It can become one of the more repressive precedents of the era. I regret I did not have time to get the court of appeals decision and do not have the money to pay the court-appointed lawyer for the copying of the 50 pp. of his petition cert.

On another matter, while I was away, the Post rewrote wire copy on Wallace campaign contributions. Some were from the family of the late Leander Perez. If you have any story on this which mentions besides his name, Chalin's and a daughter's, Delpi, I'd appreciate a copy. The elder Leander was a pal of Stoner's. There is also mention of a pilots' association in a manner not in the New Orleans phone book. Branch Pilots. Now I got a tip from a naval intelligence man to check out a family heavily in oil/maritime. I got it less than two hours before my plane left. So. all I could to was make a list of the federal cases in which that family figured over the years. I gave my notes to Jim and Bud, for I also didn't have time to retype them.

With that great morgue of yours, please try a long shot for me, an old and little-known hotel in New Orleans, Le Provencal. It just might have made a feature. I'm interested. Jimmy recognized a picture of the street on which it is. That street is but one block long. It takes up one side of that single block. It has no white-section phone-book listing under "L" or "P". There is no listing under hotels, either. There it could be confused with the Provincial Hotel, where Ray did stay. (There is no possible resemblance in the buildings or the locations. He told me accurately where this one is. The one in which he stayed is in the Quarter. This one is on the other side of Canal St.). And please remember, this is the part that gets sticky, so careful.

Best regards,